



One Minneapolis

All people have access to quality essentials, such as housing, education, food, childcare and transportation

What strategies are working?

RESOURCES ARE IN PLACE TO HELP PEOPLE.

- The community offers many supports for people in poverty. There are a lot of services available here. Similar-sized cities in other parts of the country envy the assets we have in place.
- Minneapolis has a strong community-development community. We have the resources to address housing issues by working in partnership with City government, community organizations and the private sector.
- Minneapolis has a good basic bus system in place that enables people to get to services. Good transportation ensures people aren't isolated from services. When light rail train service is expanded, this will get even better.
- We have devoted a lot of energy to improving the food sector, and things are improving.
- Advocacy efforts have helped lead to the raising of the minimum wage.

ORGANIZATIONS ARE COMMITTED TO WORKING TOGETHER TO SOLVE PROBLEMS.

- City government and community organizations are receptive to ideas and willing to work together to solve problems. Even if we don't agree, we know we can always talk to one another.
- The organizations and people here are willing to do the right thing and help people who are suffering. There is a heart for it here.
- The Northside Achievement Zone is an example of collaboration. Partner organizations are working to change the dynamic of education for students in low-income situations.
- The City is committed to engaging residents through neighborhood organizations.
- One of the Downtown 2025 Project's goals calls for ending street homelessness.

CLIENTS HAVE A SAY IN THE ORGANIZATIONS THAT SERVE THEM.

- The Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA) benefits from the guidance provided by its resident councils. MPHA is committed to resident participation in decision-making. Residents want to have a say, and they know they have rights.
- St. Stephen's Human Services benefits from a deep and rich partnership with the residents who review our proposed policies and serve on our advisory board.
- Client members make up one third of the board governing Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid. Legal Aid also conducts periodic needs assessments and outreach efforts to ensure input from the various communities we serve.

What strategies are not working?

GREAT DISPARITIES EXIST.

- The opportunity gap still exists. Race disparities are glaring.
- When we look at housing, education and employment, north Minneapolis has the greatest disparities. The picture is out of balance. North Minneapolis needs more resources.
- There are 550 boarded-up homes in Minneapolis, most of which are concentrated in two areas.
- The safety net only works for the people who know how to access available resources.
- More than 11,000 apartments are being built, but very few are affordable.
- I despair over the state of our schools.

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INADEQUATE RESOURCES AND UNRELIABLE FUNDING MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO ADDRESS NEEDS OR ACT PREVENTIVELY.

- There are not enough resources to address all the needs.
- We are unable to provide an adequate amount of affordable housing. Production isn't meeting the need. No money is coming from the federal government to build needed housing.
- The Minneapolis Health Department is forced to rely too much on grant funding. It's hard to use grant money because it's too specifically directed. Even when a project receives a grant, there is no assurance that the grant won't be pulled. Grant restrictions make it difficult to assure service continuity.
- We don't devote enough resources to preventive measures.
- Public housing has more than \$700 million in real estate, and many of these older properties are decaying because they're always occupied and heavily used. There's a lot of pressure to keep these properties in decent repair, but the money isn't there. We have huge capital needs that the federal government is not addressing.

MISINFORMATION AND INADEQUATE ENGAGEMENT HAMPER OUR EFFORTS.

- Some people in the community believe that there's enough affordable housing out there, but that's just not true. Homeless shelters are exploding, and people are waiting five or more years for public housing.
- Neighborhood organizations provide input to the City, but these organizations often don't represent populations living in those neighborhoods. As a result, the feedback given to the City is inadequate or biased. When the City makes decisions based upon that engagement, the outcome is short-sighted. Not all residents are heard.
- Community engagement overemphasizes homeowners. We need more focus on tenants and rental housing to provide more balanced and representative engagement.
- The City doesn't have enough data to fully document and address housing discrimination.

THERE ISN'T ENOUGH COORDINATION BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE COUNTY.

- City and County services are sometimes duplicative. The County board pushes for an initiative and then the City pushes for a similar initiative. There isn't enough coordination between these two governmental entities or even a commitment to talk in advance about upcoming proposals.

Working in partnership, what strategies could we pursue?

ADVOCATE FOR POLICY CHANGES AND BROADER APPROACHES.

- Advocate for paid sick time and paid family leave because these improvements would help people get out of poverty and reduce disparities.
- Advocate for changes to housing screening practices so ex-offenders can find houses or apartments. The City was a leader in the "ban the box" hiring initiative; we should do the same thing for housing screening.
- Stop talking on a ward-by-ward basis about where to site affordable housing. Instead, have meetings that involve all 13 wards and approach siting on a citywide basis.
- Grow more community center partnerships like the Northside Achievement Zone or the medical-legal partnership at Whittier Clinic. Partnerships like these make a difference because they provide holistic services and address interrelated problems. That can lead to systemic change.

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- Advocate for efforts to reduce the number of boarded-up homes. To accomplish this, the City must dedicate more staff to inspections and rehab. Put systems in place to engage the City, County and lenders to address the problem of boarded-up homes.
- Improve our community engagement model so we right-size our support to the rental community. We need to balance our emphasis to ensure both homeowners and renters are heard.
- Support an aggressive inspections program. Finding problems through inspections would help address housing code problems that aren't reported because tenants are afraid.
- Continue and expand this type of dialog. Ensure that developers and business representatives are included because we need to hear other viewpoints. We can all contribute to the success of the city.

IMPROVE COLLABORATION AND COMMUNICATION AMONG GOVERNING ENTITIES

- Work to better coordinate City and County services. Before major initiatives are proposed, the City and County should talk to one another about upcoming plans and how to better coordinate resources to address the priority populations they both share.
- Strengthen the partnership between the City and the school district. There should be a more direct partnership because the challenges are overlapping.

DIRECT MORE RESOURCES TO NORTH MINNEAPOLIS.

- Put more resources in north Minneapolis. This is where the needs and disparities are greatest.

EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY AND OURSELVES.

- Create a coalition of housing providers and public relations professionals to dispel myths about public housing. Tell residents and community leaders that we haven't produced any new public housing in 15 years. Make sure they understand that we are replacing what was lost, not building new housing.
- Partner with Legal Aid and the Civil Rights Department to gather better data on housing discrimination.

CREATE MORE RELIABLE FUNDING STREAMS AND INVESTIGATE NEW FUNDING APPROACHES.

- Stop relying so heavily on random pots of grant money that eventually go away. Create a reliable funding stream to ensure service continuity and greater focus on prevention.
- Investigate new funding approaches with the State and federal government. Take advantage of the opportunity that will become available in 2016 when the federal Low Income Housing Trust Fund will send money to states for new affordable housing development.
- Make use of federal government matching funds that SNAP recipients can use for employment and training. If we spend money on employment training, we could create a one-for-one dollar match that could go toward housing. That would double our dollars and provide a more comprehensive approach.

FIND WAYS TO BUILD MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND EXTEND HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES.

- Work in partnership with market-rate and luxury housing developers to change the conversation from "how can we keep the bums away?" to "how can we integrate affordable housing into our developments?" Build in mechanisms to create a stream of money that we can use to help people. We are entering a bountiful time, so now is the time to glean some of the development wealth to help people in need.

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- Find the capital and the political will to take advantage of the rare opportunity that we now have to build 112 units of affordable housing. Federal statute grants us permission to build this number of units, but we have to show a builder that you can cash flow a building for 15 years. We need to act so we can help families who are currently in shelters.
- Re-examine our housing screening policies so we can help people who are newly out of prison. Public housing regulations say we can't house them, and that means family members can't be reunited. Given that a study found that there is no correlation between criminal background and tenancy, we need to re-examine these policies.
- Provide incentives to help landlords be more open to tenants with a criminal background. The City could promise to investigate and correct problems.

This conversation had representatives from Mayor's Office, City Council Office, City Coordinator's Office, Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED), Health Department, Legal Aid, Minneapolis Public Housing, Office to End Homelessness, Shiloh Temple and St. Stephens.